

HOT TOPIC – FEBRUARY 2022

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION - 6TH FEBRUARY

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is also called '*female cutting*' or '*female circumcision*' and is defined by the World Health Organisation as 'partial or total removal of external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons' (WHO, 2022).



According to NHS Digital, there were 4,795 individual women and girls who attended services where FGM was identified between January and September in 2021. Of these 2,065 were newly recorded women and girls, meaning they had not been previously identified.

Since 2015, 28,765 have been seen by the NHS who have undergone FGM. However, it is estimated that approximately 137,000 women and girls are living with FGM within the UK with a further 144,000 at risk of being a victim of FGM.



As a Police Officer you may come across females who have been a victim or potential victim of FGM. How would you identify potential victims? Why do you think some Police Officers may be reluctant to

address cases of FGM and why may an investigation into an allegation of FGM prove difficult?



FGM is child abuse and is against the law in the UK. The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 makes it illegal to:

- Perform FGM in the UK
- Assist or arrange for anyone to carry out FGM abroad on girls who are British Nationals or habitual UK residents
- Assist a girl to carry out FGM on herself

For a victim under 16 years of age, the persons responsible for her are committing an offence of failing to protect her with a maximum of 7 years in prison.

FGM carries a penalty of up to 14 years in prison.

Under general provisions of the law which apply to all criminal offences, it is also an offence to:

- Aid, abet, counsel or procure a person to commit an FGM offence
- Encourage or assist a person to commit an FGM offence
- Attempt to commit an FGM offence; and
- Conspire to commit an FGM offence

I want to know more.....

<http://nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/>

<https://www.fgmelearning.co.uk/>

<http://www.dofeve.org/>